

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Texas, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Texas, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:44 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 7:06 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ALLEN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, I suggest the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HURRICANE TAX RELIEF

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, last night we cleared by unanimous consent the Grassley-Baucus Hurricane Tax Relief package.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina—and with Hurricane Rita now bearing down—this legislation is sorely needed.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY, Senator BAUCUS and Senator LOTT for their hard work and leadership to get immediate assistance to the hurricane victims.

All of America is pulling together to support the people of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, Americans from all walks of life, from all across the country, have poured out their hearts to help.

In just 3 weeks, private citizens and businesses have donated hundreds of millions of dollars to assist in the relief and recovery effort.

Schools across the country are opening their doors to the thousands of displaced students.

Communities are taking up collections of blankets, clothes, toys, and food.

Families are literally opening their homes to shelter and comfort the survivors.

In the past three weeks, I've had the opportunity to see, firsthand, America's compassion at work.

In the first week after the hurricane hit, I traveled to the gulf to do volunteer medical work. I flew to the New Orleans airport and met up with medical colleagues I know from Vanderbilt and Boston.

Many had been so moved by the stories they saw and read in the news that

they voluntarily organized themselves to head to the Gulf Coast to offer their help.

I met Knox County volunteers from my home State who had been flying helicopter missions for days.

I saw a constant stream of people pitching in, helping out, and providing spiritual and material comfort.

The bill we passed vitally supports and rewards this tremendous charity.

It recognizes that every sector of civic life is engaged in the massive recovery effort.

For example, families who are housing hurricane survivors will be eligible to receive a personal tax exemption of \$500 for every Katrina victim they take in.

The bill encourages even more cash donations by waiving the income limits that are otherwise discouraging.

The Grassley-Baucus package also rewards contributions from the business sector.

Katrina is estimated to have swept away 400,000 jobs. Under this bill, companies that hire displaced workers are eligible to receive a Working Opportunity Tax Credit of up to \$2400 per employee.

Hundreds of schools are also in desperate need of extra school books for the wave of displaced students coming through their doors.

Under this legislation, companies can receive an enhanced deduction for donating books until the new year. Food donations will also receive an enhanced deduction.

As another way to promote cash donations, the bill increases by 50 percent the amount of cash contributions a company can deduct.

The Grassley-Baucus package also offers help to the hurricane victims, themselves, in both time and money.

It allows families to dip into their retirement funds without penalty so that they can make ends meet while they struggle to regain their footing.

It also makes sure that if a mortgage company or credit card company, for example, decides to forgive a loan or a debt, there won't be any income tax due on that amount.

Another important provision of the bill is its extension of time.

All of these families need time to find a place to live, to get a job, to get back on their feet and rebuild their lives.

To help ease the pressure, people whose homes are located in the presidentially-declared disaster area will have up to 5 years to purchase new property.

Their tax filing deadline will be extended until February of next year.

These are only first steps. But they're important first steps that lift some of the pressure on these traumatized families.

I want to assure these good people that the United States Senate remains hard at work and focused on helping them recover. We are committed to the well being of our fellow citizens.

America is a family. And we pull together in times of need. And we will grow closer, stronger and more compassionate as we confront the challenges ahead.

PATRICIA LYNCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Patricia Lynch and to recognize the contributions of Ms. Lynch to the State of Nevada. Patricia Lynch was first elected Reno City Attorney in 1987 and is currently serving her fifth term. She is a tremendous asset to our community and Nation.

For the past 20 years Ms. Lynch has demonstrated a commitment to public service. She has performed countless hours of service to communities in northern Nevada and helped to coordinate and direct the efforts of local charitable organizations.

Patricia began her career in public service as a legislative assistant to Representative John E. Moss from 1975 to 1977 in the United States House of Representatives; she is a current member of the board of directors of the John E. Moss Foundation.

Patricia has also demonstrated unwavering commitment to protecting the rights of women. She is a founding member and 1993 president of Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association. Her membership on Nevada statewide boards includes the Nevada Prosecution Advisory Council, Nevada Domestic Violence Prevention Council, and the Nevada Commission on Domestic Violence.

In addition to her local and civic contributions, Patricia has served as an ambassador for the United States within the international legal community. She is a member of the World Jurist Association, WJA, and has presented papers at WJA conferences in Kiev, Ukraine in 1998 and Budapest, Hungary in 1999. She has also served as the moderator for local government law panels at WJA conferences in Budapest, Hungary in 1999, Dublin, Ireland in 2001, and Adelaide, Australia in 2003. In January 2003, Patricia participated in hosting the City Planner from Kabul, Afghanistan in a tour of wastewater and drinking water facilities in Reno, NV.

I hope you will join with me in honoring the outstanding achievements of Patricia Lynch and the selfless life she chose.

THIRD ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Justice Louis Brandeis once said, "The only title in our democracy superior to that of President is the title of citizen." This statement illustrates the paramount importance that the citizen plays within these United States. And, as such, we must continue to learn and teach what it means to be a good citizen.

"Civic education" is the term used to describe the transmitting of knowledge

and skills necessary for people to become responsible citizens. And our democracy is sustained and strengthened when our citizens have these skills and tools. In fact, there is no more important or urgent task than preparing this and future generations of Americans to maintain our democracy.

To advance the continuing importance of civic education, I am pleased to announce that the Joint Leadership of the Congress of the United States will host the Third Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on September 24-26 here in Washington, DC.

The Congressional Conference on Civic Education will bring together educators and experts from all across the country who work to promote civic education and civic engagement at the state and local levels. I am pleased to serve as honorary host for the conference, along with Majority Leader FRIST, Speaker HASTERT, and Leader PELOSI.

The 2005 Congressional Conference on Civic Education will emphasize the state of civic education in America. In an effort to restore the civic mission of schools, each State is working on creating a plan to promote civic education and engagement. Conferees will work to build upon these foundations built by participants and State delegations from the past two conferences.

The Congressional Conference on Civic Education is the third of five annual conferences planned to focus public attention on the state of civic education in America's public schools. This conference is sponsored by the nonpartisan Alliance for Representative Democracy, and consists of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Center on Congress at Indiana University and the Center for Civic Education. Through an act of Congress, the Alliance is funded by the Department of Education.

I am honored to recognize the work of the Nevada delegation. The Nevada Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools is building on the previous success of the Nevada Commission on Participatory Democracy. The Nevada Campaign has completed a benchmark survey regarding the state of civic education in the State and is planning the First Nevada Civic Education Summit for this December. Thanks to the efforts of congressional conference delegate, Senator Valerie Wiener, a resolution was passed by the Nevada Legislature this year supporting efforts of the Nevada Department of Education in increasing the role of civics in the Nevada schools curriculum.

I find it particularly appropriate that the Congressional Conference on Civic Education convenes this week. Just last week, on September 17, we observed Constitution Day, celebrating the brilliance of our founding document and the essential role citizens play in our democracy.

I am sure that the congressional leadership joins me in expressing grati-

tude to the many educators and State delegations that make this conference possible. We thank them for their time and commitment to this important endeavor. We look forward to learning about their ideas and hearing of the progress made at next year's conference.

Among those delegates who are in Washington, DC, are the following, whose names I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Alabama: Ms. Janice A. Cowin, State Facilitator; Ms. Rebecca Beaty, Executive Director, The American Village Citizenship Trust; Representative Priscilla Dunn, Alabama House of Representatives; Dr. Ethel Hall, Vice-President, Alabama State Board of Education; Dr. William P. Collins, Professor, Samford University.

Alaska: Ms. Mary Bristol, State Facilitator; Mr. Macon Roberts, Treasurer, Anchorage School Board; Dr. Carl F. N. Rose, Executive Director, Association of Alaska School Boards; Ms. Krista Scully, Pro Bono Director, Alaska Bar Association; Mr. David Baranow, Chair, Law Related Education Committee, Alaska Bar Association.

Arizona: Senator Tim Bee, State Facilitator, Majority Leader, Arizona Senate; Mrs. Lynda Rando, Assistant State Facilitator; Representative Mark Anderson, Arizona House of Representatives; Ms. Kathleen Williams, Retired Teacher, Mesa Schools; Senator Linda Gray, Arizona State Senate; Mr. Jeffrey Schrade, Director, LRE, Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education; Representative Jennifer Burns, Arizona House of Representatives.

Arkansas: Ms. Barbara Patty, State Facilitator; Representative Betty Pickett, Arkansas House of Representatives; Ms. Suzanne McPherson, Director of Special Programs, Van Buren School District; Mr. Frank Smith, Social Studies Supervisor, Pulaski County Schools; Ms. Margaret Herrick, Social Studies Specialist, Arkansas Department of Education.

California: Mr. Roy Erickson, State Facilitator; Mr. David W. Gordon, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Michelle Herczog, Consultant, Los Angeles County Office of Education; Mr. Todd Clark, Executive Director, Constitutional Rights Foundation. Dr. Darline Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education; Mr. Gary K. Hart, Institute for Education Reform, California State University; Mr. Michael Hulsizer, Administrator, Kern County Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Michael Ricketts, Chief Consultant, California Assembly Committee on Education; Ms. Julie Sauls, Chief of Staff, Office of Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy; Dr. William Cirone, County Superintendent, Santa Barbara County.

Colorado: Ms. Barbara Miller, State Facilitator; Mrs. Maria Garcia-Berry, President, CRL Associates; Representative David Balmer, Colorado General Assembly; Senator Sue Windels, Colorado General Assembly; Ms. Jill Conrad, Director, Colorado Canopy; Dr. Jane Urschel, Associate Executive Director, Colorado Association of School Boards.

Connecticut: Dr. James Schmidt, State Facilitator; Ms. Sheila McKay, Government Relations, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education; Ms. Mary Skelly, Social Studies Coordinator, Vocational-Technical School System; Ms. Martha Press, Supervisor of Social Studies, Stratford Public Schools.

Delaware: Mr. Lewis Huffman, State Facilitator; Mr. Reginald Greenwald,

Collette Educational Resource Center; Mr. Ed Freel, Director of Policy, University of Delaware, IPA; Mr. Fran O'Malley, Delaware Social Studies Education Project, University of Delaware.

District of Columbia: Ms. Deborah Foster, State Facilitator; Honorable Royce Lamberth, Judge, U.S. District Court; Doug Alexander, Newspapers in Education Coordinator, Washington Times; Ms. Carla Cartwright, Attorney, McKee, Nelson, LLP; Mr. John Cruden, President District of Columbia Bar Association; Ms. Jacquelyn Davis, Executive Director, New Leaders for New Schools.

Florida: Ms. Annette Boyd Pitts, State Facilitator; Honorable Barbara Pariente, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Florida; Mr. John Doyle, Director, Division of Social Sciences, Dade County Public Schools; Ms. Dianne Wheatley Gilotti, President, Florida League of Women Voters; Ms. Levon Terrell, Social Studies Program Specialist, FL Dept. of Education; Honorable Peggy A. Quince, Justice, Supreme Court of Florida; Ms. Mary Chiles, Office of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson.

Georgia:

Ms. Mary Stakes, State Facilitator; Representative David Casas, Georgia House of Representatives; Dr. Bill Cranshaw, Social Studies Program Specialist; Mr. Eddie Bennett, Social Studies Supervisor, Cobb County Public Schools; Mr. William Cheeks, Businessman; Senator Daniel Weber, Georgia State Senate; Ms. Shalynda Warren, Regional Voting Education Coordinator.

Hawaii: Representative Lyla Berg, State Facilitator, Hawaii House of Representatives; Mr. Robert McClelland, Planning and Evaluation, Hawaii State Department of Education; Senator Norm Sakamoto, Hawaii State Senate Representative; Roy Takumi, Hawaii House of Representatives; Mr. Roger Takabayashi, President, Hawaii State Teacher's Association.

Idaho: Dr. Dan Prinzing, State Facilitator Justice; Linda Copple Trout, Idaho Supreme Court; Mrs. Parra Byron, Education Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor; Dr. Marilyn Howard, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Ms. Linda Clark, Superintendent, Meridian Schools.

Illinois: Dr. Patton Feichter, State Facilitator; Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Regional Superintendent, DuPage County Schools; Dr. Carolyn Pereira, Executive Director, Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago; Dr. Steven Klein, State Coordinator, Law Related Education, Elgin School District; Representative Suzanne Bassi, Illinois House of Representatives; Representative William Davis, Illinois House of Representatives; Mr. Jesse Ruiz, Chairman, Illinois State Board of Education.

Indiana: Mr. Peter Bomberger, State Facilitator; Dr. John Patrick, Indiana University; Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education; Senator Theresa Lubbers, Indiana State Senate; Representative Robert Behning, Indiana House of Representatives; Mr. Dennis Lee, Birmingham & McHale Law Firm; Ms. Jill Baisinger, Social Studies Coordinator, Indiana Department of Education.

Iowa: Mr. Jason Follett, State Facilitator; Senator Paul McKinley, Iowa State Senator; Ms. Dianne Bystrom, Iowa State University.

Kansas: Ms. Lynn Stanley, State Facilitator; Mr. Paul Stuewe, Teacher, Lawrence High School; Dr. Dan C. Yunk, CEO, Kansas Fann Bureau; Mr. Rick Reed, Educator, McPherson High School; Dr. Randall Watson, Superintendent, McPherson School District; Senator Roger Retiz, Kansas State Senate.

Kentucky: Dr. Deborah Williamson, State Facilitator; Honorable Trey Grayson, Secretary of State of Kentucky; Ms. Natalie

Stiglitz, Social Studies Coordinator, Kentucky Department of Education; Ms. Robin Chandler, Branch Manager, Kentucky Department of Education; Representative Tanya Pullin, Kentucky House of Representatives; Ms. Polly Page, Northern Kentucky University; Senator Jack Westwood, Kentucky State Senate.

Louisiana: Ms. Maria Yiannopoulos, State Facilitator; Senator Gerald Theunissen, Louisiana Senate; Mr. E. Wade Shows, Attorney at Law.

Maine: Mr. Patrick Phillips, State Facilitator; Kala Clark, Legislative Youth Advisory Board; Kathryn Hunt, University of Maine; Theodore Sharp, Superintendent of Schools, Gorham, ME; Representative Stephen Bowen, Maine House of Representatives.

Maryland: Ms. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, State Facilitator; Ms. Sharon Cox, President, Montgomery County Board of Education; Delegate David Rudolph, Maryland House of Delegates; Mrs. Julie Ayers, Student Learning Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education; Senator Gwendolyn Britt, Maryland General Assembly.

Massachusetts: Ms. Diane Palmer, State Facilitator; Senator Richard T. Moore, Massachusetts Senate; Mr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent, Hudson Public Schools; Ms. Susan Whittle, Director, Office for the Humanities, Massachusetts Department of Education; Mr. Roger Desrosiers, Social Studies Teacher, Millbury High; School Representative Michael Rush, Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Michigan: Ms. Linda Start, State Facilitator; Mr. Chris Siebenmark, Office of Senator Ron Jelinek; Mrs. Kathleen Straus, President, State Board of Education; Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Michigan House of Representatives.

Minnesota: Ms. Jennifer Bloom, State Facilitator; Ms. Juanita Peterson, 1st Vice President, League of Women Voters Minnesota; Ms. Dana Carmichael, Minneapolis Public Schools; Senator Jim Greenwalt, Minnesota State Senate; Mr. Richard Theisen, Past President, National Council for the Social Studies.

Mississippi: Dr. Susie Burroughs, State Facilitator; Ms. Judith Couey, Curriculum Director, Mississippi Department of Education; Dee Chambliss, Assistant Secretary of State for Education & Publications.

Missouri: Ms. Millie Aulbur, State Facilitator; Ms. Leslye Winslow, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State; Mr. Stan Johnson, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Senator Gary Nodler, Missouri General Assembly; Ms. Melissa Randol, Associate Executive Director of Law, Missouri School Boards Association; Representative Danielle Moore, Missouri House of Representatives.

Montana: Dr. Bruce Wendt, State Facilitator; Senator Sam Kitzenberg, Montana Senate; Ms. Brenda Wahler, Attorney, State of Montana Child and Family Services; Representative Gary Branae, Montana House of Representatives; Honorable Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent of Education; Honorable Brad Johnson, Montana Secretary of State.

Nebraska: Mr. Mitch McCartney, State Facilitator; Senator DiAnna Schimek, Member, Nebraska Unicameral Legislature; Joe Rowson, Assistant Vice President, University of Nebraska; Mr. Ken Meyers, 9th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Wilcox-Hildreth High School; Mr. Larry K. Starr, Director of Social Science Education, Nebraska Department of Education; Ms. Doris Huffman, Nebraska State Bar Foundation.

Nevada: Ms. Judith Simpson, State Facilitator; Senator Valerie Wiener, Nevada

State Senate; Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Nevada Assembly; Mr. Steve George, Public Information Officer, Office of the Secretary of State; Dr. Keith Rheault, Nevada Superintendent of Schools.

New Hampshire: Mr. Mica B. Stark, New Hampshire Institute of Politics, State Facilitator; Ms. Debby Scire, Executive director, Campus Compact, New Hampshire; Mr. Kenneth Relihan, Social Studies Consultant, New Hampshire Department of Education; Ms. Debra Hamel, New Hampshire State Board of Education.

New Jersey: Ms. Arlene Gardner, State Facilitator; Ms. Debra Casha, Vice President, New Jersey State Board of Education; Mr. Phillip Brown, Center for Character Education at Rutgers; Mr. Ramon De La Cruz, Director, Division of Elections, Office of the Attorney General; Assemblyman Craig A. Stanley, New Jersey General Assembly.

New Mexico: Ms. Dora Marroquin, State Facilitator, Secretary Rebecca Vigil-Giron, New Mexico Secretary of State; Patricia Concannon, Social Studies Consultant, New Mexico Department of Education; Ms. Jennifer MacDonald, Curriculum Director; Representative; Teresa Zanetti, New Mexico House of Representatives; Ms. Leah Gutierrez Wier Instructional Manager, Albuquerque Public Schools.

New York: Dr. Stephen Schechter, State Facilitator; Ms. Rita Lashway, Deputy Executive Director, New York State School Boards Association; Dr. John Bierwirth, Superintendent, Herricks Union Free School District; Mr. Carl Onken, President Elect, New York State School Boards Association; Ms. Deborah Shayo, Director, Law, Youth & Citizenship Program, New York State Bar Assn.; Mr. Timothy Backus, Supervisor, Social Studies, South Colonie Central School District.

North Carolina: Ms. Kelley O'Brien, State Facilitator; Representative Susan Fisher, North Carolina House of Representatives; Representative Rick Glazier, North Carolina House of Representatives; Ms. Margot Christensen, North Carolina League of Municipalities; Ms. Mollie Henderson, Social Studies Consultant, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; Ms. Sandra Cook, Newspapers in Education, NC Press Foundation.

North Dakota: Dr. Phil Harmeson, Co-State Facilitator; Senator Ray Holmberg, Co-State Facilitator, North Dakota Senate; Honorable Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General, State of North Dakota; Mr. Neil Howe, Director, Division of Independent Study; Representative Rae Ann Kelsch, North Dakota House of Representatives; Honorable Mary Maring, Justice, North Dakota Supreme Court.

Ohio: Mr. Jared Reitz, State Facilitator; Ms. Linda Petz, Consultant for Social Studies, Stark Educational Service Center; Representative Dixie Allen, Ohio House of Representatives; Mr. Frank Underwood, Special Projects and Initiatives, Ohio Community Service Council; Ms. Lisa Duty, Education Consultant, Ohio Department of Education; Ms. Patricia Allen Day, Executive Director, Secondary Education, Dayton Public Schools.

Oklahoma: Ms. Lisa Pryor, State Facilitator; Representative Gary Banz, Oklahoma House of Representatives; Ms. Gina Wekke, Campus Compact/Academic Affairs, OK State Regents for Higher Education; Representative Bill Nations, Oklahoma House of Representatives; Dr. Teena Nations, Director, Professional Development, OK Commission on Teacher Preparation; Ms. Jean Hendrickson, Executive Director, Oklahoma A+ Schools.

Oregon: Ms. Barbara Rost, State Facilitator; Ms. Marilyn Cover, Executive

Director, Classroom Law Project; Representative Linda Flores, Oregon House of Representatives; Ms. Kathleen Cornett, Oregon Community Foundation; Ms. Cynthia Guyer, Executive Director, Portland Schools Foundation.

Pennsylvania: Ms. Stephanie McKissic, State Facilitator; Ms. Sue Perrotty, Chief of Staff, First Lady of Pennsylvania; Representative Dwight Evans, Pennsylvania House of Representatives; Ms. Sabrina Holloway, Office of Representative Dwight Evans; Mr. Jeffrey Zeiders, Pennsylvania Department of Education; David Trevasakis, Executive Director LEAP Kids PA.

Rhode Island: Mr. Michael Trofi, State Facilitator; Mr. James Parisi, Rhode Island Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals; Representative Edwin Pacheco, Rhode Island General Assembly; Senator Juan Pichardo, Rhode Island General Assembly; Representative Hanna Gallo, Rhode Island General Assembly.

South Carolina: Ms. Beth DeHart, South Carolina Bar Association; Mr. James Bryan, Social Studies Coordinator; Senator Robert Hayes, South Carolina State Senate; Dr. Paul Home, Director of Curriculum and Program Review, Education Oversight Committee; Mr. Matthew Gates, Staff Attorney SC House of Representatives; Senator John W. Matthews, South Carolina State Senate.

South Dakota: Dr. John Lyons, State Facilitator; Representative Gerald Lange, South Dakota House of Representatives; Mrs. Glena Fouberg, President, State Board of Education; Representative Keri Weems, South Dakota House of Representatives; Ms. Patty Pearson, Executive Director, Kids Voting South Dakota.

Tennessee: Ms. Janis Kyser, State Facilitator; Dr. Ashley Smith, President, Tennessee Association of Middle Schools; Mr. Bruce Opie, Legislative Liaison, Tennessee Department of Education; Mr. Al Mance, Executive Director, Tennessee Education Association; Ms. Brenda Ables, Social Studies Specialist, Tennessee Department of Education.

Texas: Mrs. Jan Miller, State Facilitator; Ms. Patricia Ann Hardy, Texas State Board of Education; Mr. George Rislov, Managing Director, Curriculum Development, Texas Education Agency; Ms. Michelle Ungurait, Director of Social Studies, Curriculum Division, Texas Education Agency; Ms. Mary Lee Webeck, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin.

Utah: Ms. Kathy Dryer, State Facilitator; Representative LaVar Christensen, Utah House of Representatives; Judge Judith Billings, Utah Court of Appeals; Mr. Ed Dalton, Member, Utah State Board of Education; Senator Karen Hale, Utah State Senate; Mr. Alan Griffin, Civic, Character and Service-Learning Specialist, Utah State Office of Education.

Vermont: Vee Gordon, State Facilitator; Secretary Deborah L. Markowitz, Secretary of State; Mr. Robert Paolini, Executive Director, Vermont Bar Association; Ms. Janel Johnson, Civic Education Coordinator, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Vermont; Senator Donald Collins, Vermont State Senate; Mr. William Corrow, Vice-Chairman, Vermont Board of Education; Representative Kathy Lavole, Vermont House of Representatives; Margaret Sanchez, The Vermont Youth Engagement Coalition; Mr. Kevin Ryan, Director of Education and Communication, Vermont Bar Association.

Virginia: Dr. Barbara Parry, Co State Facilitator; Dr. Steve Bragaw, Co State Facilitator; Ms. Beverly Thurston, Specialist-History, Social Sciences, Virginia Department of Education; Delegate James Dillard, Virginia General Assembly.

Washington: Mrs. Kathy Hand, State Facilitator; Mr. Steve Mullin, President,

Washington Roundtable; Representative David Upthegrove, Washington House of Representatives; Representative Dave Quall, Washington House of Representatives; Dr. Robert Butts, Assistant Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

West Virginia: Mrs. Priscilla Haden, State Facilitator, Member, State Board of Education; Delegate Tom Campbell, West Virginia House of Delegates; Mr. Ben Beakes, Chief of Staff, West Virginia Secretary of State; Mr. Bill Thomas, West Virginia Legislative Reference and Information Center; Ms. Regina Scotchie, Social Studies Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education.

Wisconsin: Ms. Dee Runaas, State Facilitator; Dr. Diana Hess, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin; Honorable Elizabeth A. Burmaster, State Superintendent; Senator Luther Olsen, Wisconsin State Senate; Dr. Richard Grobschmidt, Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction; Lindsey Draper, Milwaukee County Children's Court; Senator Robert Jauch, Wisconsin State Senate; Ms. Beth Ratway, Social Studies Consultant, Department of Public Instruction.

Wyoming: Mr. Matt Strannigan, State Facilitator; Ms. Wendy Madsen, Legislative Information Officer, Wyoming Legislature; Senator Mike Massie, Wyoming State Senate; Mr. Geoff O'Gara, Member, Member, Wyoming State Board of Education; Representative Rosie Berger, Wyoming House of Representatives; Ms. Kristi Wallin, Coordinator, Wyoming Partnership for Civic Education.

SAMOYEDS STRUT STUFF IN OWENSBORO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was President Harry Truman who observed, half a century ago, that "if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." That is perhaps a little harsh. Nevertheless, I note that many of my colleagues in the Congress are dog fanciers, and the Senate is a strikingly dog-friendly workplace. So it is fitting that we pay tribute to a renowned people-friendly breed of dog: the Samoyed. Legendary for their beauty, friendly spirit and heroic and historic treks to the North and South Poles, Samoyeds pulled the adventurers of yesteryear to new frontiers.

Several hundred Samoyeds and their humans will be pulling into Owensboro, KY, in October for the Samoyed Club of America's "Simply Southern" National Specialty. While I am pleased that these noble dogs and their guardians will be visiting the Commonwealth, it is, sadly, because of Hurricane Katrina's devastation in Biloxi, MS, where the event was originally scheduled to be held. So the SCA Specialty this year is a hurricane evacuee, but in addition to contributing over \$10,000 from show proceeds to animal rescue in the devastated region, the organizers look forward to going back to a rebuilt and newly vibrant gulf coast in the future.

Samoyed dogs were named for the semi nomadic tribe which developed the breed. Living along the shores of the Arctic Ocean, north of Russia and Siberia, they were one of the earliest tribes of Central Asia. They depended upon their dogs to herd reindeer, pro-

tect against wolves, hunt bears, and even keep the children warm as they slept. Their endurance and intelligence made the Samoyed dogs prized members of early European expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. Borchgrevink, Amundsen, and Shackleton in the Antarctic, and Nansen and Abruzzi in the Arctic, counted on Samoyeds to explore the extreme and then uncharted ends of the Earth. The American explorers Fiala and Baldwin also used Samoyed sled teams. Most of the Samoyeds in England and the United States today are related to sled dogs from those expeditions.

Among them was Rex of White Way, who was renown as the lead dog on the U.S. Mail sled team that used to run the 64-mile mail delivery route from Ashton, ID, to West Yellowstone, over the 7000-foot Targhee Pass. Rex was a superb canine athlete and hero. He even learned to parachute on rescue missions that retrieved survivors of airplane crashes and a snowbound train in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Although Samoyeds are a medium-sized dog ranging in weight from 35-65 pounds, they are very strong. Rex of White Way broke the world weight-pull record in 1953 by pulling 1,870 pounds.

Samoyeds have been described as "by nature . . . not a quarrelsome dog though he will stand his ground for what he feels are his rights. Each Samoyed is an individual, even from one litter. One will be very attentive and obedient while another may be more headstrong and less demanding of affection as long as he knows the house is his castle when he wants it and he owns you."

One may detect in that description some symmetry with Senators.

The description goes on: He has a keen sense of knowing when you are happy, sad, who really loves him, just tolerates him, dislikes him and he will return his love accordingly. He is a 'talky' dog and with encouragement will voice his pleasures and his dislikes. Some enjoy jokes and ham it up when laughed at while others resent it. He will speak with his paw or nose.

Samoyeds today are still pulling sleds. They are also skijoring, pulling scooters, herding, excelling in agility and obedience trials and otherwise exemplify the "Working" class of dogs. As therapy dogs, they bring joy and comfort to people in nursing homes and hospitals. Indeed, at least one Samoyed therapy dog that I know of, Gidget (Salish's Potomac Fervour), recently visited Hurricane Katrina evacuees from Gulfport, MS, who are currently residing at the Armed Forces Retirement Home here in Washington. She teams up with another Samoyed, Samantha, in regular visits with children at Inova Fairfax Hospital in northern Virginia. So these are not just beautiful dogs, they are hard-working dogs, doing great work for many people around the country.

On October 24, hundreds of Samoyeds, with their humans in tow, lit-

erally as they are prone to pull, will arrive in Owensboro. For some it will have been a harrowing journey since Hurricane Katrina roared ashore. Sheila and Walter Herrmann, co-chairs of the event and residents of Covington, LA, described their hurricane experience: Walter and I were hunkered down for the storm watching tree after tree fall and a tornado touch down and make a disaster of our kennels (the dogs, our own as well as the boarders were safely crated in the safest portion of our house) talking about the national is what helped us get through it.

Others involved in beating the odds and making this event happen include: Pam Barbe, Karen Brooks, Diane Dotson, Peggy Green, and Laurie Stone. I would also like to thank Jim and Celinda Cheskawich for all their good work.

Mr. President, Kentucky and I extend a warm welcome to the Samoyed Club of America's 2005 "Simply Southern" National Specialty.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 16, 2005, a man was attacked with broken glass bottles by two men outside his home in Manhattan, NY. The apparent motivation for the attack was the man's sexual orientation.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NOMINATION OF JOHN ROBERTS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, with the Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings all but complete, I rise today to announce my vote on the nomination of Judge John Roberts to serve as the 17th Chief Justice and the 116th Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

I have come to my decision not in haste, but with great care and consideration. Over the history of our Nation, relatively few Senators have had the opportunity to consider the nomination of a Chief Justice and I recognize the honor that accompanies this great responsibility.

Judge Roberts is an extremely well qualified nominee. Some have said he